system. Employment of children as domestic servants has also been included in the category of hazardous occupation in the year 2006.

Since child labour is primarily the result of poverty, Government is also making efforts to cover the families of these children under the poverty alleviation and income generation Schemes of other Ministries to economically empower them so that they are not forced to send them to work.

Assistance to States/UTs for rehabilitation of Child Labour

966. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of employing children below the age of 14th years cdntinues in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such children detected and rescued so far during 2007 (upto 31.1.2007) in the country, State-wise, specifically in big cities in each State;

(c) the Central assistance, if any, given to States and Union Territory Administrations for the relief and rehabilitation of such children; and

(d) whether there is any scheme under his Ministry to give proper education including vocational education to such children so as to make them useful and independent citizens; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Child labour is a socio economic problem primarily a result of poverty and illiteracy. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of initially withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations and processes. For the rehabilitation of child labour, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts in the country. Under the Scheme, the children withdrawn from work are put in special schools where they are provided education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and regular health check-up so as to prepare them in a maximum of three years time to join the mainstream education system. In addition, Government is also implementing the INDUS Project in 21 districts of the country. It is a joint project of Government of India and US Department of Labour. It is based on NCLP Scheme with certain additional features like Vocational Training for adolescents in the age group of 14-17 years.

Rs. 175 crores have been earmerked for implementation of child labour elimination Schemes in country during 2007-08. So far 4.57 lakh children have been mainstreamed to regular education under the NCLP Scheme. The State wise details are enclosed on statement. *(See* below). City-wise details of the children mainstreamed are not maintained.

State-wise Details of Children Rescued and Mainstreamed so far

State-wise Details of Children Mainstreamed

Sl.No.	Name of States	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	222207
2.	Bihar	11480

1	2	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	4851
4.	Jharkhand	14524
5.	Karnataka	11689
6.	Madhya Pradesh	7748
7.	Maharashtra	7214
8.	Orissa	74434
9.	Rajasthan	12930
10.	Tamilnadu	44027
11.	Uttar Pradesh	19842
12.	West Bengal	24164
13.	Punjab	2761
	GRAND TOTAL	457871

*City-wise data is not being maintained by the Government.

Increase in Child Labour

†967. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of child labourers in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that in this age of liberalization the number of child labourers has increased by 10 per cent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the child labourers relieved of the bounded labour again meet the same fate; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to solve the problem of child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As per Census 2001, the number of working children in the country in the age group of 9—14 years was 1.26 Crores and it was 1.12 Crores during 1991 Census, which shows an increase of approximately 10% between 1991 and 2001.

(c) and (d) With a view to ensure that the children withdrawn from work do not relapse to work, Government is taking various measures for the educational and vocational rehabilitation of these children under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme and the economic rehabilitation of their families by covering them under the poverty alleviation and income generation Schemes of other Ministries so that they are not forced to send them to work.

Number of Homeless and Landless People

968. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of homeless and landless people in the country, State-wise, as on date;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.